

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UR, US, SALT, PARM
SUBJECT: BREZHNEV VLADIVOSTOK SPEECH APRIL 7

1. BREZHNEV GAVE A VERY TOUGHLY WORDED SPEECH IN VLADIVOSTOK APRIL 7, ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY ADDRESSED TO THE U.S., ON DETENTE, SALT AND THE NEUTRON BOMB. LIKE THE BREZHNEV SPEECH TO THE TRADE UNION CONGRESS ONE YEAR AGO, THIS STATEMENT ON DETENTE AND SALT SERVES AS THE SOVIET SCENE-SETTER FOR THE SCHEDULED VISIT TO MOSCOW OF SEC-RETARY VANCE LATER THIS MONTH. LIKE THE SPEECH OF A YEAR AGO, THIS ONE IS ALSO STRONG AND UNYIELDING ON ALL ISSUES.

2. FOLLOWING ARE MAIN POINTS OF SPEECH:

-- BREZHNEV REFERRED TO FORCES ON THE EAST AND WEST OF SOVIET BORDERS WHICH ARE INTERESTED IN THE ARMS RACE AND IN INCREASING TENSION. (THIS WAS THE ONLY REFERENCE TO CHINA IN THE ENTIRE SPEECH.)

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-- BREZHNEV SPOKE GLOWINGLY OF THE 1974 VLADIVOSTOK ACCORDS AND SAID THAT "BOTH SIDES" TALKED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF CONCLUDING AN AGREEMENT IN 1975 SHORTLY AFTER VLADIVOSTOK, SINCE MOST OF THE WORK HAD BEEN COMPLETED AT THAT MEETING. HOWEVER, THREE AND A HALF YEARS LATER THERE IS STILL NO AGREEMENT.

-- IF THERE ARE DELAYS, BREZHNEV SAID, THEY ARE DUE TO A LACK OF POLITICAL DECISION. THE CRUX OF THE MATTER, HE SAID, WAS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S "INDECISION, INCONSISTENCY" AND LACK OF PREPAREDNESS TO FIND "PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS." THIS, HE SAID, IS PLAYING INTO THE HANDS OF THOSE WHO OPPOSE SALT.

-- HE ALSO SPOKE AGAINST ATTEMPTS TO LINK SALT WITH OTHER PROBLEMS AND ISSUES, TO BRING PRESSURE AGAINST THE USSR.

-- SOME IN THE U.S., ACCORDING TO BREZHNEV, ARE TRYING TO USE THE SOVIET WILLINGNESS TO REACH AN AGREEMENT AS A WAY TO GAIN UNILATERAL ADVANTAGES FOR THE U.S. HE CITED THE CRUISE MISSILE AND THE MODERNIZATION ISSUES AS EXAMPLES.

-- WITHOUT U.S. STEPS IN RESPONSE TO SOVIET FLEXIBILITY, IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO SOLVE THE REMAINING QUESTIONS, BUT FRANKLY WE RECENTLY HAVE NOT SEEN SUCH STEPS.

-- THE SOVIET UNION, HE SAID, "RESOLUTELY REJECTS" THESE ATTEMPTS AND FAVORS THE MOST RAPID CONCLUSION OF AND AGREEMENT ON THE BASIS OF EQUALITY AND EQUAL SECURITY. "THERE CAN BE NO OTHER SOLUTION."

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-- ON THE NEUTRON BOMB BREZHNEV CHARACTERIZED IT AS A "NUCLEAR, OFFENSIVE WEAPON" WHICH WILL INCREASE THE RISK OF NUCLEAR WAR. TO SAY OTHERWISE, HE SAID, "DOES NOT CORRESPOND WITH THE FACTS."

-- HE ACCUSED THE U.S. AND OTHER NATO COUNTRIES OF TRYING TO DECEIVE "THE PEOPLE" INTO THINKING THEY ARE READY TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE USSR ON THE BOMB, BUT IN FACT ARE THINKING OF USING IT AS A BARGAINING CHIP FOR OTHER "UNRELATED ISSUES."

-- REGARDING THE PROTESTS IN THE WEST AGAINST THE WEAPON, BREZHNEV SAID THAT THE LEADERS SHOULD HEED THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE.

-- BREZHNEV CLOSED WITH A REJECTION OF THE IDEA THAT THERE IS A "SOVIET THREAT" USING STANDARD ARGUMENTS. TOON

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